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## **Sens. Allen and Stamas take third annual 'Snowmobile the North Tour' to promote northern Michigan**

**LANSING** – Legislative leaders from around the state plan to explore northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula via snowmobiles next month, witnessing firsthand the economic impact created by winter tourism. State Sens. Jason Allen and Tony Stamas will spearhead the tour.

"I look forward to this trip every winter," said Allen, R-Traverse City. "Snowmobiling is one of the best ways to get out and see the beautiful scenery of our state. I enjoy getting out on the trails and experiencing Michigan's winter wonderland."

Beginning and ending in Grayling, the tour kicks off Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006 and travels through both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas before wrapping up Saturday, Jan. 7. Throughout the week, the pair and fellow legislators will visit Gaylord, Lewiston, Atlanta, Onaway, Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, St. Ignace, Cedarville, Pickford, Kinross, Sault Ste. Marie, Paradise, Alanson, and Indian River.

Joining Allen and Stamas will be former Speaker of the House Rick Johnson, Rep. Tom Casperson, Rep. Goeff Hansen, Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer and members of the Michigan Snowmobile Association.

"Going on the snowmobile tour allows me to see first-hand the significant economic impact that winter tourism has on northern Michigan," said Stamas, R-Midland. "Winter in Michigan is a time for snowmobile enthusiasts everywhere to enjoy all that our state has to offer."

Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering exciting terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 400,000 registered snowmobiles, contributing more than \$1 billion to the state's economy every year, safe and responsible driving is essential for every enthusiast on a sled.

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